

June 27, 2019



Senator Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Senate HELP Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Lower Health Care Costs Act of 2019

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

3M Health Information Systems (HIS) thanks you for your bipartisan leadership in advancing common-sense legislation to lower health care costs for patients and taxpayers. We greatly appreciate your efforts with S. 1895, the Lower Health Care Costs Act, to address inefficiencies and misaligned incentives within the American health care system that contribute to higher costs.

In particular, HIS would like to highlight our support for Section 303, which would designate a nongovernmental, nonprofit entity to collect and analyze deidentified patient health care data. The current health care system makes it difficult and expensive for innovative companies and researchers to access deidentified health care data so they can analyze patterns and develop tools to improve the health care system. While several states have developed All-Payer Claims Databases (APCDs) to make pricing and quality data more widely available, many of these efforts have mixed results due to legal issues and technological and administrative difficulties.

By enacting Section 303, the Committee would greatly increase health care price and quality transparency for patients, states, and employers. We appreciate the Committee's work to ensure that the designated entity has experience "effectively collaborating with and engaging stakeholders to develop reports." Innovation can come from all corners and sectors, and we appreciate that Section 303 would allow both public and private entities to participate. As a company that has more than thirty years of experience in coding, patient classification, and measuring and analyzing health outcomes, we believe the opportunity to collaborate with this entity and the data and the reports it develops will unleash new analytic

capabilities and innovations that advance population health and value based care initiatives that significantly improve health outcomes and reduce costs.

We look forward to working with and supporting you in the effort to reduce health care costs, improve health care outcomes, and increase transparency. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at mmivory@mmm.com or 202.414.3042 for further information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan Y. Carr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Ivory Carr
Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs
3M Health Information Systems